

Isaiah 28:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

Analysis

Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth. Isaiah issues urgent warning to the scoffers of verses 14-15. **Be ye not mockers** (ve'attah al-titlotasu, וְאַתָּה אַל-תִּתְּלוּצְּסוּ, and now do not be scoffers) pleads for repentance. Letsin (לִצִּין, mockers/scoffers from same root as v.14) are those who ridicule God's word. The consequence of continued mocking: **lest your bands be made strong** (pen-yechezequ mosroteikhem, פֶּן-יִחְזְקוּ מוֹסְרוֹתֵיכֶם, lest your bonds/chains be strengthened). Persistent scoffing hardens into bondage; mocking becomes chains. Freedom to repent diminishes with continued resistance.

For I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth (ki chalah ve-necheratsah shamati me'et Adonai Yahweh tseva'ot al kol-ha'arets, כִּי כָלָה וְנִחְרָצָה שָׁמַעְתִּי מֵאֵת אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת עַל כָּל-הָאָרֶץ). Kalah (כָּלָה, completion, destruction) and necheratsah (נִחְרָצָה, decreed, determined) indicate fixed divine decision. This isn't mere threat but determined reality. The scope is **the whole earth**, not just Jerusalem—universal judgment. This points beyond Babylon to final judgment (2 Peter 3:7, Revelation 20:11-15).

Historical Context

Isaiah heard this directly from God—prophetic certainty, not speculation. Babylon's conquest was determined decree, already decided in heaven's court. Later prophets confirmed this (Jeremiah 25:12-14). Jesus similarly spoke of determined destruction for Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24). The "whole earth" awaits final judgment—Peter warns scoffers of this very thing (2 Peter 3:3-7). The urgency: stop mocking before your bonds become too strong to break, before determined judgment falls. Procrastination hardens hearts and seals doom.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does persistent mocking and scoffing at God's word create 'bands' that make repentance increasingly difficult?
2. What does it mean that judgment is 'determined'—already decreed in heaven's court?
3. How should awareness of coming 'consumption upon the whole earth' create urgency in your witness to others?

Interlinear Text

אֶל וְעַתָּה H6258 H408	וְתִלְוֹצוּ צוֹ H3887	פֶּן H6435	וְיִחַזְקוּ H2388	
Now therefore	be ye not mockers		be made strong	
מִיָּאֵת H4147	כִּי H3588	כָּל הַ H3617	וְנִחְרָצָה הַ H2782	שִׁמְעִי עִתִּי H8085
lest your bands	a consumption	even determined	for I have heard	
מֵאֵת יְיָ H136	צָבָא וְתִהְיֶה הַ H3068	עַל כָּל H5921 H3605	הָאָרֶץ: H776	
from the Lord	of hosts		upon the whole earth	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:32 (Parallel theme): And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Psalms 107:16 (Parallel theme): For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

Jeremiah 20:7 (References Lord): O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jeremiah 25:11 (Parallel theme): And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 15:17 (Parallel theme): I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Jeremiah 39:7 (Parallel theme): Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

Matthew 27:39 (Parallel theme): And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

Matthew 27:44 (Parallel theme): The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Luke 21:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Lamentations 1:14 (Creation): The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.

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